

USEFUL INFORMATION
for the 2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
Contacting Legislators, the Legislative Calendar, and
Groups to contact for Legislative Alerts.

1. To CONTACT your legislators in Olympia you can -- Call, Write, Visit...

CALL:

- you can call your legislators' offices directly, or
- there is a **TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:**
1-800-562-6000. TTY: 1-800-635-9993.

During the Legislative Session, operators are standing by:
weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and
Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

HOTLINE Operators will send your message to:

- * one of your legislators, * all three of your legislators,
- * the Governor and Lieutenant Governor – or all of these, as you request.

They can tell you who your legislators are, or you can look them up at:
www.leg.wa.gov.

PLUS – they have **language translation** services. It helps if the person placing the call knows enough English to understand “Please Wait,” and to report the language needed.

The operator will ask the caller to wait, will con-tact an Interpreter Service, and then connect a 3-way call with the: HOTLINE Operator, the caller, and the Interpreter.

WRITE:

- Representative _____ or,
Senator _____
- P.O. Box 40600 (House), P.O. Box 404[leg district] (Senate).
- Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (House)
- Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district] (Senate)

EMAIL:

- write the first 8 letters of your legislator's last name, followed by _ plus the first two letters of their first name, @leg.wa.gov. (e.g., washington_ge@leg.wa.gov – if George Washington were here.)

VISIT:

- **in Olympia**, any day during the session. Citizens are welcome. Also look for **TOWN HALL MEETINGS** back in the District by mid-Session.

BONUS: A wonderful (free) resource is the **League of Women Voters**. Find them in your local phone directory, and ask for their “TRY” pamphlets listing phone/mail/email information for your local, state, and federal elected officials.

- - - - -

2. It helps to understand the Legislative Calendar.

The Legislative Session in Olympia runs from **January 12 – March 12, 2004**. Every day – including Saturdays and Sundays – is counted in setting the 60-day Session. The legislature will be in Session on all holidays (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Presidents’ Day), and may also be in session on weekends later in the Session.

The official calendar will not be available until January, but it is possible to anticipate **LIKELY key dates** during the 2004 Session. With the caveat that these dates are subject to change by a day or so,

...here are several critical points in the 2004 Session:

- **1/12** – 2004 Session begins.
- **2/06** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committees of the House/Senate - where they originate (a.k.a. "house of origin")
- **2/10** – last day for bills to be considered in one of the Fiscal Committees of the House/Senate where they originate
- **2/17** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor in their “house of origin”
- **2/27** – last day for bills to be considered in the Policy Committees of the "opposite house"
- **3/02** – last day for bills to be considered in the Fiscal Committees of the "opposite house"
- **3/06** – last day for bills to be considered on the floor of the opposite house
- **3/12** – 2004 Session adjourns for the year.

If you wish to stay informed about the progress of issues you care most about, then

3. CONTACT AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR YOUR ISSUE.

There is an advocacy group for almost every issue. They:

- ⇒ Monitor their issues closely,
- ⇒ Distribute weekly Legislative Alerts,
- ⇒ Recommend positions on bills and budget items, and
- ⇒ Suggest sample messages.
- ⇒ Many also organize Lobby Days.

To find an advocacy group on your issue: ask people affected by the issue, ask professionals who work in that field, ask friends, or, use this list.

Contact them directly to receive their Legislative Alerts.

Aging – the Senior Lobby: seniorlobby@uswest.net,
WA Association of Area Agencies on Aging: w4a@olywa.net

Child Abuse & Neglect – sethdawson@worldnet.att.net
LippoldLau@aol.com

Child Care - WA Association for the Education of Young Children:
selena@waeyc.org; Child Care Works for Washington:
DawnL@ccsww.org

Child Nutrition – Childrens Alliance: Shelley@childrensalliance.org.

Child Welfare/foster care/adoption - Childrens Home Society:
lippoldlau@aol.com
206-695-3229;

Children's Issues generally - Childrens Alliance: 206-324-0340 X 11
action@childrensalliance.org

Criminal Justice - Washington State Catholic Conference – garyl@thewscc.org

Disability – the ARC of Washington: grier@arcwa.org
Washington Protection & Advocacy: philj@wpas-rights.org

Domestic Violence - WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:
grace@wscadv.org

Education – League of Education Voters: info@educationvoters.org.
Washington State PTA: mkenfield@wastatepta.org.

GLBT issues - the Fairness Lobby: gregorjohn@attbi.com.

Health - Nick Federici: nickf@earthlink.net

Head Start/ECEAP - Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP:
robbindunnwsa@comcast.net

Higher Education/Women's Issues - American Association of University
Women:
sherrya76@attbi.com.

HIV/AIDS - Lifelong Aids Alliance - action@ltaa.org

Homelessness - WA State Coalition for the Homeless –
SethDawson@worldnet.att.net

Housing - WA Low Income Housing Alliance - megan@wlihn.org;
and: sethdawson@worldnet.att.net

Hunger/Food Assistance - Food Lifeline/Second Harvest:
Kristenrogers@palm.com
Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition: Shelley@childrensalliance.org

Juvenile Justice - jon@childrensalliance.org

Mental Health – Washington Protection & Advocacy: PhilJ@wpas-rights.org;
Washington Community Mental Health Council: cgaylord@wcmhcn.net;
sethdawson@worldnet.att.net.

Sexual Assault - Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs:
policy@wcsap.org.

Substance Abuse/Treatment – Association of Alcohol and Addiction Programs:

aapwa@qwest.net, and: sethdawson@worldnet.att.net.

Tobacco Prevention/FRIENDS of the Basic Health Plan -
NickF@earthlink.net, or
melanie.newman@cancer.org; <http://www.wabreathe.org>
American Lung Assoc. of WA: alaw@alaw.org

Welfare – Statewide Poverty Action: juliew@fremontpublic.org.
Childrens Home Society: LippoldLau@aol.com

Women's Issues – Northwest Women's Law Center: nsapiro@nwwlc.org

Youth - jon@childrensalliance.org

Faith Communities:
Friends Committee on WA State Public Policy - fcwpp@quaker.org,
Jewish Federation - remyt@jewishinseattle.org
Lutheran Public Policy office – pbenz@lcsnw.org
WA Association of Churches - kristenrogers@palm.com
WA State Catholic Conference - garyl@seattlearch.org